

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 32-34 have been amended. Claims 1-31 and 35-37 have been canceled. Claims 32-34 are currently pending.

Allowable subject matter

The undersigned representative appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 32-34 if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 32 has been amended and rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 28 and intervening claims 30 and 31. Also, claims 33 and 34 have been amended for minor text changes. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 32-34 are in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner.

Rejection of claims 1-31 and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on various cited references

In the interest of expediting the prosecution of the present application, claims 1-31 and 35-37 have been canceled. Rights are reserved for filing continuation applications directed to such canceled claims.

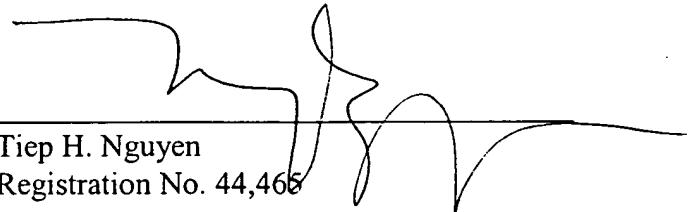
Conclusion

For at least all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record, and the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the references of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited upon the filing of a continuation.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/7/04

By:


Tiep H. Nguyen
Registration No. 44,468

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
607 14th Street, N.W., Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 508-5800
GTM/THN/36609.197176